



March 23, 2007

This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant Programs

COD News

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, March 25, 2007 (03/21/07)

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, March 25, 2007 from 1:30 A.M. until 8:00 A.M. (ET). In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. The impact of these overlapping outages is as follows:

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. (ET).
- Batches submitted by schools via the SAIG between 1:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and not acknowledged back to schools until after the SAIG comes back up at 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET) will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or e-mail CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Unlocking and Resetting COD Web Site Passwords (03/23/07)

COD would like to remind COD Web site users that Security Administrators (COD Web site User Level 5) are able to unlock and reset passwords for the users (User Level 1-4) they established at their school or organization. However, if the Security Administrator needs his or her password unlocked or reset, the Security Administrator must contact the COD School Relations Center.

In order to unlock users, a Security Administrator should log in to the [COD Web site](#) and complete the following steps:



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- Step 1: From the Welcome to Common Origination & Disbursement Web Site screen, click on the User tab on the blue bar at the top of the screen. The User Search screen displays.
 - Step 2: Enter the search criteria for the user and click on the submit button at the bottom of the User Search screen. The Search Results screen displays and lists users that match the search criteria.
 - Step 3: On the Search Results screen, select the name of the user that needs to be unlocked. The User Information screen displays.
 - Step 4: Click on the Modify button at the bottom of the User Information screen. The Update User Profile screen displays.
 - Step 5: The Locked Out box on the Update User Profile screen contains a checkmark. Click on the Locked Out box to remove the checkmark.
 - Step 6: If a new temporary password is not needed, skip this item and go to Step 7. If a new temporary password is needed, enter the new temporary password in the New Password field. Then re-enter the new password in the Re-enter New Password field to confirm. The user will need to change this password to one of his or her choosing.
 - Step 7: Click on the submit button at the bottom of the Update User Profile screen. The Update Your Profile screen displays.
 - Step 8: On the Update Your Profile screen, click on the Submit button to confirm the updates made to the user's profile.

This information is also posted on the COD Web site in a document entitled "Unlocking And Resetting COD Web Site Passwords." To access the document *before* you log in to the Web site, click on the "Click here if you are looking for more information on Common Origination and Disbursement" Link. To access the document *after* you log in to the Web site, click on the "Today's Update" link at the bottom of the page.

Schools can refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site, <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0201UpdatedCODWebsiteSchools.html>, for information regarding COD Web site access. Third party servicers can refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/UpdatedCODWebsiteThirdPartyServ.html>.

NEW!

ACG and National SMART Grant Resources (03/23/07)

As a reminder, the Department of Education (the Department) has posted a number of Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements that communicate regulatory, policy, and operational information related to the implementation of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs. In addition, COD has updated the [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference](#) and the [2007-2008 COD Technical Reference](#). A school should refer to the [communications posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and to the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 COD technical references for complete information about the ACG and National SMART Grant programs.

More specifically, the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 COD technical references cover all aspects of the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs. This includes information on the following key aspects of ACG and National SMART Grant processing:

- Financial Award ID and Financial Award Number (Award Sequence Number)
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”
- Citizenship and Student Level Code
Volume II, Section 1 “Implementation Guide”
- Message Classes
Volume II, Section 2 “Message Classes”
- Common Record Layout
Volume II, Section 3 “Common Record Layout”
- Reports Generated by COD System
Volume VI, Section 8 “COD Reports”
- Eligibility/Payment Reason and Rigorous High School Program Code for ACG
Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”
- Major/Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code for National SMART Grant
Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”

If your school needs help locating information related to the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Note for EDEExpress Users: Volume III of the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 COD technical references provides additional guidance for schools that use EDEExpress in combination with another system. If your school needs help locating information related to EDEExpress, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 880/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

2004-2005 Pell Grant CFL Reduction To GAPS Net Drawdown On March 19, 2007 (03/20/07)

On March 19, 2007, the COD System reduced the Pell Grant 2004-2005 Award Year Current Funding Level (CFL) to equal the Net Drawdown amount reflected in the COD System and in the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). This action applies to schools that had a CFL greater than their GAPS Net Drawdown. As noted in the warning message that we sent to affected schools on February 21, 2007, this action was taken because disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2004-2005 Award Year should have already been submitted to the COD System for processing. This reduction affected approximately 900 schools.

A school affected by the March 19, 2007 CFL reduction to GAPS Net Drawdown will—

- Receive a text message (PGTX05OP Message Class) in the school’s Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox notifying the school of the reduction;
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the reduction;
- See a change in the school's CFL that reflects the reduction; and



- See a change in the school's authorization in the GAPS that reflects the reduction.

Note: The amount of the reduction will equal the difference between the school's CFL and Net Drawdown amount. This means that the amount of the reduction could equal as little as \$0.01.

If you have any questions regarding the 2004-2005 CFL reduction to GAPS Net Drawdown or need to have funding reinstated, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2007-2008 Federal Pell Grant Payment And Disbursement Schedules [02/22/07 (Updated 03/20/07)]

Background

On February 15, 2007, the President signed the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007, (P.L. 110-5) that establishes the maximum Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) award for the 2007-2008 Award Year at \$4,310 and, with the minimum award continuing to be \$400, sets the maximum Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that a student may have to be eligible to receive a Pell Grant at 4110. These amounts (and related statutory provisions) were used to develop the Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules for the 2007-2008 Award Year, which are available in [Dear Colleague Letter P-07-01](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

On February 27, 2007, Federal Student Aid posted information about the operational implementation of the Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules for the 2007-2008 Award Year in an [Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site. This announcement provides schools with high-level information about the impact on the Central Processing System (CPS) and the COD System and Federal Student Aid's anticipated implementation dates related to these systems.

Note: For information about the impact on the CPS, refer to the Electronic Announcements posted on [February 27th](#), [March 1st](#), and [March 16th](#).

COD System Information

As explained in the [February 27th Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid plans to update the 2007-2008 COD System with the Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules during the period May 11-12, 2007. Federal Student Aid decided to perform this update through a separate release to avoid delaying the April 13-14, 2007 implementation of COD System functionality that supports 2007-2008 award-year processing. At the time Federal Student Aid posted the earlier announcement, it was evaluating options related to the acceptance of 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records during the interim period between the April and May releases.

On March 6, 2007, Federal Student Aid posted a subsequent [Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site. The [March 6th Electronic Announcement](#) informs schools of Federal Student Aid's determination that *the COD System will begin accepting 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records after Federal Student Aid completes the May 11-12, 2007 update to the 2007-2008 COD System.* This approach will allow Federal Student Aid to begin accepting and processing all 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records after it has updated the 2007-2008 COD System with the Pell Grant payment and disbursement

schedules. In addition, this approach will eliminate the need for schools to resubmit Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records to the COD System.

Federal Student Aid will continue to communicate with schools about the acceptance of 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records by the COD System through forthcoming release-related Electronic Announcements on the [IFAP Web site](#). In the meantime, Federal Student Aid wants to highlight the following key points:

- ***After implementation of COD System functionality that supports 2007-2008 award-year processing during the period April 13-14, 2007***, the COD System will accept origination and anticipated disbursement records for 2007-2008 Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) awards. The COD System will also accept origination, anticipated disbursement, and actual disbursement records for William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards.
- ***After implementation of COD System functionality that supports 2007-2008 award-year processing during the period April 13-14, 2007 and before the 2007-2008 COD System is updated with the Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules during the period May 11-12, 2007***, the COD System will ***reject*** origination and anticipated disbursement records for 2007-2008 Pell Grant awards.
- It is not necessary for the COD System to accept a 2007-2008 Pell Grant record for a student before it can accept a 2007-2008 ACG or National SMART Grant record for that student. (Federal Student Aid will perform this check later in the award year.) Therefore, a school that wishes to submit 2007-2008 ACG and/or National SMART Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records to the COD System before the COD System begins accepting 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination and anticipated disbursement records may do so.
- When a school submits a 2007-2008 Pell Grant origination or anticipated disbursement record to the COD System after May 12, 2007, the record must include a CPS transaction number for a transaction that has been designated as “Pell Grant Eligible.” If the record does not include a CPS transaction number for a transaction that has been designated as “Pell Grant Eligible,” the COD System will reject the record.
- Federal Student Aid will provide information about the COD System’s acceptance of actual disbursement records for 2007-2008 Pell Grant, ACG, and National SMART Grant awards through our forthcoming release-related Electronic Announcements on the [IFAP Web site](#).

Note for EDEExpress Users: On March 19, 2007, Federal Student Aid posted an [Electronic Announcement](#) informing schools of its plans for updating the appropriate modules in EDEExpress with the 2007-2008 Pell Grant amounts. Federal Student Aid plans to issue an updated EDEExpress software release on May 18, 2007. Federal Student Aid will communicate the details related to this release through forthcoming Electronic Announcements on the [IFAP Web site](#).

New Posting Plan for COD Processing Update Beginning March 19, 2007 (03/19/07)

The COD Processing Update provides information related to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System and includes the following sections: COD News, Reports and Data Requests, Resolved Issues, Resolved Issues In Clean Up, and Current Issues. For a number of years, Federal Student Aid has posted a new edition of the COD Processing Update on a daily basis. Through a recent evaluation, Federal Student Aid discovered that often changes to the previously posted edition of the COD Processing Update were not made on a daily basis. As a result, Federal Student Aid is changing its posting plan for the COD Processing Update.

Beginning March 19, 2007, Federal Student Aid will post a new edition of the COD Processing Update on the [COD Web site](#) on business days when there is a change to the previously posted edition and each Friday. As schools are aware, Federal Student Aid has been posting the Friday edition of the COD Processing Update on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and will continue to do so.

Under the new posting plan, Federal Student Aid will continue to post two versions of each edition of the COD Processing Update. One version will contain both loan and grant information. The other version will contain only grant information. Both versions of a new edition of the COD Processing Update will be available by noon (ET) on the day of posting. Schools will be notified when a new edition is posted via a COD Web Message.

If you have any questions about the new posting plan or the information in the COD Processing Update, contact the COD Schools Relations Center.



Reports And Data Requests



NOTICES

This section contains important notices regarding reports and/or data requests. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

- COD Web Site Reports for March 21, 2007—

Have not yet been posted online. However, all March 21st reports have been sent to schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes. We anticipate that the March 21st reports will be available on the COD Web site by close of business on March 23, 2007. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause schools. (03/22/07)
- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records—

The YTD Record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Schools also use the YTD Record for the purpose of rebuilding a complete student record or Pell Grant database.

 - For rebuilds for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Award Year, the school can submit the data request via the COD Web site or batch.
 - For rebuilds for the 2004-2005 and earlier award years, the school must contact the COD School Relations Center by e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com. The school should include "Pell YTD" in the subject line. If a school is unable to e-mail its request, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone.

ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Grant reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VI, Section 8 of the [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference](#) posted on the [IFAP Web site](#). There are issues with the following Grant reports and/or data requests:

- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records— As previously reported, COD discovered some possible issues with the generation of these reports. After further research, COD determined that all Pell YTD Records sent to schools on March 14, 2007 and March 15, 2007 were sent with either an incorrect Pell Grant ID or no Pell Grant ID in the header, trailer, and Batch ID of the report. The contents of the report were correct.

To ensure that the affected schools receive the report with a correct/complete Pell Grant ID in the header, trailer, and Batch ID of the report, COD plans to resend the Pell YTD Records to the affected schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes by close of business on March 19, 2007.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may have caused. [03/16/07 (Updated 03/19/07)]